

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach a high Cr-Ni welding wire (filler) for arc welding consisting of C (>0 & ≤ 0.04 wt%), Si (0.01-0.5 wt%), Mn (>0 & ≤ 7 wt%), Cr (28-31.5 wt%), Ta (0.005-3.0 wt%), Fe (7-11 wt%), V (>0 & 0.5 wt%), one or more elements selected from B, Zr and rare earth elements, P (> 0 & ≤ 0.02 wt%), S (> 0 & ≤ 0.015 wt%), O (>0 & ≤ 0.01 wt%), N (0.002-0.1 wt%) and specifically Nb (>0 & ≤ 0.5 wt%) and balance Nickel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Alexandra Elve whose telephone number is 571-272-1173. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-4:00 Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tu B. Hoang can be reached on 571-272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

March 14, 2010.

/M. Alexandra Elve/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3742